

8th grade Algebra

2007/2008

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Crescent Elk Web Page: http://web2.delnorte.k12.ca.us/ce_page/ce.html

Welcome to 8th grade Algebra! In this course, we'll be investigating algebra as a tool for calculation and problem solving. Emphases are on development of problem solving skills (including word problems), solving equations, and real-life applications. Students who demonstrate a thorough understanding of the material will go on to Geometry in high school.

A. Organization

Each day we will start with a warmup activity, and students will check their homework answers. Any questions on the previous night's homework will be addressed, and then new material will be presented. Finally, students will have time at the end of class to begin that night's homework assignment. Homework not be assigned over the weekend.

B. Required Supplies

Overall:

1. A 3½ inch binder (note that this binder will be used for all classes)
2. 5 tab separators for the binder (to separate the subjects)
3. Some kind of pencil organizer for your binder (since backpacks aren't allowed in the classrooms).
4. Student Planner (supplied by Crescent Elk)

For this class:

1. 2 or 3 single-subject spiral bound notebooks. All class notes and homework will be done in these notebooks. We will only be using one at a time, but right now they can be purchased at WalMart for 10¢ apiece.
2. Pencils. I highly recommend that you buy a few mechanical pencils and some extra lead -- sharpening of regular pencils during class time is very distracting. All work and notes must be done in pencil -- no work in pen will be accepted. I've found that .7 mm lead is much sturdier.
3. Blue, black or red pens. We will use ball-point or roller-ball pens to correct work in class.
4. Colored pencils are extremely useful later in the year when we will be graphing inequalities. They are recommended but not required.
5. Students are also welcome to purchase a scientific calculator; they may find it useful for completing homework assignments. However, calculators are not required.

C. Grading Plan

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

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| 1. | Tests: | 50% |
| 2. | Quizzes: | 25% |
| 3. | Homework: | 25% |

Note that our daily warmups will fall under the quiz category, as will points for completing homework on time.

Homework is an essential part of learning mathematics -- practicing the types of problems we discuss in class will help you cement your understanding. Please note that all work must be shown on homework, quizzes, and tests.

Your grades will be available online to check at any time. They will be updated regularly (hopefully weekly). Go to the Crescent Elk web page at http://web2.delnorte.k12.ca.us/ce_page/ce.html and click on the word "Grades" on the left hand side. Under "Partnership 4 Classes" click on the button that says "Claypool". Click on the appropriate period. You'll see a form with two boxes. In the top box, type your name, in last name, first name format. (ex: Smith, John) Then type your student number in the bottom box and either hit enter or click "Show Grades".

D. Late Work

Homework sheets will be due every other week. Students who do not complete their homework on time will miss out on quiz points, but will have the opportunity to complete the homework for full homework credit, as long as they complete it before that homework sheet is due.

If you are absent, you have as many days as you were absent to make up your work. If you know in advance that you're going to be gone, ask for work to take with you.

Papers with no name will not be accepted.

E. Classroom Rules of Conduct

Of course, the school Code of Conduct is in the student planner. Here are a few rules that are particularly important in our classroom:

1. Be kind. We're creating a learning community, and everyone is deserving of your respect (just like you deserve theirs).
2. Please be to class on time -- when you're tardy, not only are you missing out, but your late arrival is distracting to the other students.
3. No gum. I like to chew it too, but it always seems to end up somewhere inappropriate. Nobody likes sitting in gum.
4. No hats (you too, ladies). If you feel there's a compelling reason you should be exempted from this rule, you can try asking for an exception, but it had better be something good. (ex: My brother shaved his initials into my hair while I was sleeping and I can't get to a barber until after school.)
5. No unapproved electronics. iPods, cell phones, etc, need to be turned off and put away during class. If I see it or hear it, your folks will have to come get it back from Mr. Hartwick. Of course, if you have an assistive device (hearing aid, communication tablet, etc) this does not apply.
6. No food in the classroom. You can have a water bottle, but no sports drinks, coffee, or other sticky spills waiting to happen. Exceptions might be made for occasional celebrations.
7. Our classroom does not have running water. Bring a water bottle! If you forget, bottled water will be available for 50¢, but only before or after class. No water will be sold during class time. If you're thirsty during class, try to wait until homework time and then ask to go get a quick drink from a drinking fountain.